



SADC @30: Past, Present and Future

Concept Note

Colloquium

1 Introduction and Justification

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) was founded on 17 August 1992 in the Botswana city of Gaborone, mainly by states that are geographically located in southern Africa. The overriding *raison d'être* behind the formation of SADC was to create governance structures and systems that would address issues and phenomena that are transboundary in character. For example, a political instability in Mozambique or Zimbabwe may escalate and worsen to a point that other countries in the region become affected, and in such a scenario, SADC as a regional intergovernmental organisation can be used by member states to convene and deliberate on measures necessary to overcome the problem. Similarly, it can also be used not only as an instrument for responding to crises in the region but also as a tool to initiate and advance economic cooperation and regional integration broadly. And indeed, SADC has been used for the aforesaid purposes and for many others of similar or varying nature, of course as deemed appropriate by member states and consistent with its various treaties and protocols that outline its role. From challenges of conflict, political crises, natural disasters, governance failures, political repression, migration, cooperation, through to poor levels of regional integration, *inter alia*, the issues that SADC focuses on are certainly too broad and diverse.

2 Organisers, Date and Venue

In August 2022 SADC will be reaching 30 years of existence. In light of this milestone, the University of Johannesburg's Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), in partnership with the African Association of Political Science (AAPS) and the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS), has organised a 2-days SADC colloquium that will be taking place on **25 and 26 August 2022** in **Johannesburg (South Africa)**. The specific venue will be announced soon. The colloquium is titled *SADC @30: Past, Present and Future* and the goal will be to reflect on the life of the organisation, focusing on past achievements or shortcomings; present landmarks, challenges and opportunities; and what the future can look like. To this end, the SADC @30 Colloquium will receive and accept papers from willing participants.

3 Key themes and topics for the colloquium

Themes	Topics
Democracy, Human Rights and Political Processes	Democratization in SADC, Democracy norms and principles, Political systems, Human rights, Freedom, Political participation, Constitutionalism, etc.
Borders, Migration and Climate Change	Movement of people, Borderless region, Cross-border social relations and exchanges, Xenophobia, Environmental degradation, Natural disasters, Droughts, etc.
Regional Conflict, Security, and Terrorism	Politically-motivated violence, Defence, Security spending, Political crises, Human (in)security, intra-state conflicts, Insurgency, Terrorism, Regional security instability, Regime security, etc.

Political Economy and Socio-Economic Development	Interface between politics and economic development, Economic systems, Development approaches, etc.
Regional Integration/Cooperation	Intra-regional trade, regional economic cooperation, Regional knowledge transfers, Regional economic chaise and decentralization of production, etc.
Mediation, Diplomacy and International Relations	Diplomatic relations in the region, Mediation of conflicts and political crises, interventions, SADC's international relations, Discourses around inclusion and exclusion in the inter-state system, etc.
Civil Society and Elections	Community activism, Grassroots democracy, Civil society-led social change, Political education, Elections and social change, etc.
Governance and Leadership	Governance systems, Corruption, Policy, Leadership in both the private and public sectors, Role of leadership and good governance in social transformation, etc.

4 Management and Coordination for the SADC@ Colloquium

The management of the colloquium is the responsibility of the IPATC. The overall coordinator of the colloquium is Prof. Siphamandla Zondi (head of the IPATC, University of Johannesburg). Prof. Zondi can be reached via his email: siphamandlaz@uj.ac.za . He is supported by a group of staff at the IPATC, including Dr. Noluthando Phungula (a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the IPATC) – Dr Phungula's email is: maphungul@gmail.com; and Mr Vusi Gumbi (Research Assistant at the IPATC) – Mr Gumbi's email is: vusiq@uj.ac.za.

5 The institutions behind the SADC@30 Colloquium

5.1 About the IPATC

Currently headed by Professor Siphamandla Zondi, the Institute of Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) was established at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in 2016 as one of the University's flagship centres of excellence to conduct research and contribute to UJ's decolonization efforts. It provides a forum for scholars, practitioners and civil society actors in Africa and its diaspora to dialogue and contribute to the rigorous production and dissemination of Pan-African knowledge and culture. The Institute seeks to promote original and innovative Pan-African ideas and critical dialogue in pursuit of global excellence in research and teaching, and to contribute actively to building an international profile for UJ on Pan-African issues. IPATC's prioritises five key mandates: 1) Research; 2) Strategic Engagement with Policy Makers; 3) Public Engagement; 4) Teaching; and 5) Capacity Building.

5.2 About SAAPS

The South African Association of Political Studies was created in 2001 as a body that advances Political Science and International Relations in South Africa and Africa broadly. In order to realise this, the SAAPS undertakes to support and develop scholars and teachers in a balanced manner; develop and implement sustainable research agenda; and cultivate and maintain connections with similar regional and international associations. The SAAPS views the realisation of the abovementioned objectives as requiring maintenance of high academic standards of its journal, the *Politikon*; enabling and encouraging members to partake in conferences and other academic activities; and recognising excellence by offering special awards to outstanding academics and scholars. SAAPS is presently headed by Professor Kgothatso Shai, the present head of the Department of Cultural and Political Studies at the University of Limpopo.

5.3 About AAPS

The African Association of Political Science (AAPS) was founded in 1973 as a Pan-African organisation composed of scholars who are dedicated to advancing the study and application of political science in and about African. It is currently headed by Professor

Christopher Isike of the University of Pretoria and has a journal associated with it, the African Journal of Political Science. The AAPS regards the marginalisation of African voices in mainstream political science and international relations scholarship as epistemic injustice and has assigned itself the role of enabling African scholars to rise and claim their rightful position in the world of knowledge production. It commits to achieve this by publishing journal articles and books that are written by African scholars and concerned mainly with issues that has a bearing on the continent, amongst other commitments.

6 Participation, format and language

The symposium will involve about 60 participants drawn from governments, policy practitioners, academia, civil society, and private sector, mainly from within the SADC region. It will be convened in a hybrid format involving both a physical meeting and a virtual platform. The format of the colloquium will include, inter alia, plenary and break-away sessions. One or more keynote speakers will be invited to set the tone for the deliberations throughout the duration of the colloquium. English will be used for abstracts and papers. The colloquium will also be conducted in both English. All publications emanating from this initiative will be in both.

7 Expected deliverables

Three sets of outputs are expected from this project:

First, the project will generate public debate through various types of media, including Radio, TV, Newspapers, and social media.

Second, it will culminate in the publication of a special issue of a journal on the SADC@30.

Third, the project will lead to a publication of an edited book volume on the SADC@30.

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